

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4713
ANSWERED ON:23.04.2002
REDUCTION IN IMPORT OF UREA
A. VENKATESH NAIK

Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government have achieved considerable reduction in import of Urea during the last five years;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the amount of subsidy saved on the aforesaid account;
- (d) whether the Government are aware that most of the farmers are unaware of the balanced consumption of Urea and other fertilizers;
- (e) if so, whether as a result of this farmers are incurring heavy losses;
- (f) whether the Government propose to organise a workshop throughout the country to make the farmers aware about the consumption of balanced urea and fertilizers; and
- (g) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI S.B. MOOKHERJEE)

(a) & (b): Yes Sir. The details of import of urea during the last five years on Government account is as under:

Year Quantity (in lakh MT)

1997-98	23.89
1998-99	5.56
1999-2000	5.33
2000-01	Nil
2001-02	2.20

(c): The import of urea is arranged to fill up the gap between the estimated indigenous availability and country's requirement. The difference between the landed cost of imported urea and the Maximum Retail Price (MRP) is borne by the Government as subsidy. Hence the exact amount of subsidy saved on account of no imports cannot be quantified as the amount of subsidy saved or extra subsidy incurred would have dependent on the quantum of urea that the country had to import in case of any further gap and the price of urea in the international market. However, the actual expenditure for imported urea against the Estimates (RE) in the last 5 years are given below:

(Rs. in crores)

Year Estimated Expenditure Actual Expenditure

1997-98	2862	1658.71
1998-99	1740	333.09
1999-2000	1370	293.00
2000-01	1312	11.85
2001-02	159	145.50

(d) to (g): Balanced fertilization is being promoted by extension units of State Departments of Agriculture and the Union Ministry of Agriculture as also the fertilizer industry and the agricultural universities in the country. Farmers are progressively becoming aware about the benefits of balanced fertilisation. Government's efforts in bringing balance fertilizer consumption can be appreciated in narrowing down NPK consumption ratio which was 7.0:2.5:1 during 1985-86 and come down to 6.3:2.6:1 during 1989-90 and further narrowed down to 5.9:2.4:1 during 1991-92 and ratio got distorted and became 9.6:2.9:1 during 1993-94. With Government's efforts by way of giving price support to decontrolled phosphatic and potassic fertilizers and education of farmers through extension machineries, the consumption ratio has improved to become 6.9:2.7:1 during 1999-2000.

State Governments as well as IFFCO, KRIBHCO and Indian Potash Limited periodically organise farmers fairs, Krishi Melas, farmers; training and lay out field demonstration to show the benefits of balanced fertilization. There is, however, no proposal to organise workshops throughout the country on this issue.